

XLIX.—*On Birds observed near Machako's Station, in British East Africa.* By DR. SYDNEY L. HINDE. *With Notes by R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D.*

(Plate XII. fig. 2.)

MACHAKO'S STATION, on the Uganda Road, is situated at the edge of a grassy plain, which stretches for some miles to the westward. The only wood in the neighbourhood consists of single thorn-trees, scattered about at distances of 200 yards. The nearest forest is at Kikuyu, about 45 miles away. On the east side of the station is a valley, at the bottom of which is a stream about 2 feet wide and 3 inches deep. The whole valley is cultivated, and a few patches of rank grass grow in the bed of the stream. On its eastern side the mountains rise abruptly, and some of them are 2000 feet higher than the station, which is 5300 feet above the sea-level.

1. *CORVUS SCAPULATUS* Daud.; Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* iii. p. 22 (1877); *id. Ibis*, 1891, p. 239.

No. 25, ♀. Machako's, April 28, 1896.

2. *CORVULTUR ALBICOLLIS* (Lath.); Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* iii. p. 24 (1877).

3. *COSMOPSARUS REGIUS* Reichen.; Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1891, p. 241.

No. 14, ♀. Machako's, Aug. 23, 1896.

4. *SPREO SUPERBUS* (Rüpp.); Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1891, p. 243.

No. 5, ♀. Machako's, April 25, 1896.

Pairs common in stations. Flocks common along the beds of streams. Nests in tree-stumps. Sings well.

5. *DILOPHUS CARUNCULATUS* (Gm.); Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1891, p. 243.

♂ ad. Machako's, June 17, 1897.—Bare skin round the eye canary-yellow.

6. *BUPHAGA ERYTHORHYNCHA* (Stanley); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 196 (1890); id. Ibis, 1891, p. 243.

a, ♀ ad. Machako's, April 24, 1896.

Flocks common in the stations where there are cattle. If an animal has a sore, the birds dig into it. I have known donkeys killed by the constant irritation caused by their pecking into the sore backs.

7. *BUCHANGA ASSIMILIS* (Bechst.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 247 (1877).

No. 72, ♀. Machako's, Aug. 28, 1896.

Very common between the coast and Kibweze. I only saw one or two more specimens at Machako's, and none north at Kikuku.

8. *VIDUA PRINCIPALIS* (L.); Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 244.

No. 19, ♂. Machako's, April 24, 1896.

No. 19, ♂. „ Dec. 25, 1896.

Flocks common in swamps and reed-beds.

[The black spot on the chin is fully developed in the April bird, but is scarcely visible in the December one, which has plentiful traces of the winter-plumage still remaining.—R. B. S.]

9. *PENTHETRIA EQUUS* (Hartl.); Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 245.

No. 112, ♂. Machako's, March 10, 1897.

This species is very common. They are usually found in reed-beds, but almost every native village is frequented by at least one pair.

10. *DREPANOPECTES JACKSONI* Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 246, pl. v.

a, ♂ ad. Machako's, April 30, 1896.

The males of this species frequently form a playground in the long grass on the plains. The playground made by each bird is circular, about 2 feet in diameter; the grass is beaten quite flat inside the ring, except one tuft in the very centre. A flock of these birds playing has a curious effect, as they jump about 3 feet in the air and drop down again

into the circle, each bird jumping from five to ten times in a minute.

11. *PLOCEIPASSER MELANORHYNCHUS* Rüpp.; Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 250.

No. 45, ♀. Machako's, May 19, 1896.

Common in the neighbourhood of Machako's Station; it probably breeds there.

12. *HYPHANTORNIS NIGRICEPS* Layard; Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 253.

No. 22, ♂. Machako's, May 17, 1896.

Breeds in the mimosa-trees.

13. *HYPHANTORNIS SPEKII* Heugl.; Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 254.

No. 22*a*, ♂. Machako's, April 30, 1896.

No. 70, ♀. „ Aug. 17, 1896.

No. 22*a*, ♂. „ Nov. 3, 1896.

Nesting here; very common in flocks.

All these Weaver-birds will build a nest in about a day, but a pair will often build four or five before they get one sufficiently well bound to the branch to support their weight, and in consequence, where 20 or 30 of these birds are building in a single tree, the ground beneath the tree is strewn with nests in every stage of completeness. I have counted as many as 243 nests lying on the ground beneath a single tree.

14. *HETERHYPHANTES REICHENOWI* (Fischer); Sharpe, Cat. B. xiii. p. 418; id. Ibis, 1891, p. 252.

No. 66, ♂. Machako's, Aug. 10, 1896.

15. *PASSER RUFICINCTUS* Fischer & Reichen.; Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 256.

No. 47, ♂. Machako's, May 20, 1896.

No. 95, ♂. „ Nov. 11, 1896.

Large numbers breed here in May and June. It is common in the station. Builds sometimes in the eaves of the houses, but more often among the fruit of a banana-bunch or in the head of the wild banana. This banana is cultivated by the Wakamba (natives) for the fibre which it yields.

16. *SERINUS FAGANI* Sharpe, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vi. p. vii (1896).

No. 69, ♀. Machako's, Aug. 17, 1896.

Very common on the dried-up grass-plains, either in pairs or flocks. Its movements and habits when on the ground reminded me of our own Siskin.

[I fancy that this species will turn out to be *Serinus reichenowi* (Salvad.).—R. B. S.]

17. *PYRRHULAUDA LEUCOPARÆA* Fischer & Reichen. J. f. O. 1884, p. 55.

No. 39, ♂. Machako's, May 3, 1896.

[This species is recorded by Dr. Reichenow from many localities in German East Africa (Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 204). I believe this to be the first record from British East Africa.—R. B. S.]

18. *MOTACILLA FLAVA* L.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. x. p. 516, pl. vi. figs. 3-5.

Budytes flavus Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 200.

No. 106, ♀ ad. Machako's, Feb. 1, 1897.

Very common.

19. *ANTHUS CERVINUS* (Pall.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. x. p. 585 (1885).

No. 113, ♂. Machako's, March 10, 1897.

[This is the most southern winter habitat yet recorded for the species, which has, however, been obtained on the Goolis Mountains in Somaliland by Mr. E. Lort Phillips, and in Shoa by the Italian naturalists.—R. B. S.]

20. *ANTHUS RUFULUS* (Vieill.) ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 589.

No. 2, ♂ ad. Machako's, April 24, 1896.

21. *CINNYRIS KIRKI* Shelley ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 592.]

No. 61, ♀. N'Goleni, near Machako's, Aug. 10, 1896.

No. 65, ♂. Machako's, Aug. 11, 1896.

No. 82, ♂ imm. Machako's, Sept. 5, 1896.

A common species.

22. *CINNYRIS FALKENSTEINI* Fischer & Reichen. ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 594.

No. 67, ♂. Machako's, May 12, 1896.

No. 67 a, ad. Machako's, Sept. 3, 1896.

This species also is not rare.

23. *ZOSTEROPS KIRKI* Shelley ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 594.

No. 60. ♂. N'Goleni, 7 miles from Machako's, Aug. 7, 1896.

No. 59, ♀. " " " Aug. 10, 1896.

Seen in flocks among the hills, feeding in hundreds on the same tree.

24. *LANIUS COLLYRIO* L. ; Gadow, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. viii. p. 286 (1883) ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 595.

No. 16, ♂. Machako's, April 24, 1896.

25. *BRADYORNIS MURINUS* F. & R. ; Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 152.

No. 64, ♂ ad. N'Goleni, 7 miles from Machako's, Aug. 5, 1896.

Seems to be common on the hill-tops.

[Naiwascha Lake, *teste* Reichenow, *l. c.*—R. B. S.]

26. *PYCNONOTUS LAYARDI* Gurney ; Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 207 (1894).

No. 44, ♀. Machako's, May 16, 1896.

Common everywhere between Mombasa and Kikuyu where there are bushes or trees.

27. *PRINIA MYSTACEA* (Rüpp.) ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 155.

No. 46, ♂. Machako's, May 20, 1896.

Very common between March and June.

28. *CISTICOLA HINDII*. (Plate XII. fig. 2.)

Cisticola hindii Sharpe, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vi. p. vii (1896).

This little bird lives in the short grass-plains. It soars into the air, making a peculiar clicking note. This "click" is audible after the bird has soared so high as to be invisible.

[It is interesting to compare the habits of this species with those of its near ally *C. terrestris* of South Africa, as

given by Major Bulger. Cf. Sharpe, ed. Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 276.—R. B. S.]

29. *MONTICOLA SAXATILIS* (L.) ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 161.

No. 101, ♀ imm. Machako's, Jan. 1, 1897.

No. 103, ♀ imm. „ Jan. 30, 1897.

Arrived here in the beginning of December ; very common till February.

30. *SAXICOLA GENANTHE* (L.) ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 162.

No. 105, ♂ ad. Machako's, Feb. 1, 1897.

No. 114, ♂ ad. „ Feb. 23, 1897.

Arrived in December and left in March.

31. *SAXICOLA MORIO* Licht. ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 162.

No. 104, ♀ ad. Machako's, Jan. 30, 1897.

Arrived here in December and left in March.

32. *BATIS MOLITOR*.

Pachyprora molitor (Hahn & Küst.) ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 302.

No. 80, ad. Machako's, August, 1896.

Two flocks seen.

33. *ALSEONAX MURINA* F. & R. ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 300.

No. 81, ad. Machako's, Sept. 3, 1896.

34. *DIOPTRORNIS FISCHERI* F. & R. ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 300.

No. 62, ad. N'Goleni, 7 miles from Machako's, Aug. 10, 1896.

Seems to be common on the hill-tops.

35. *COCCYSTES JACOBINUS* Bodd. ; Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 217 (1891).

No. 111, ♂ imm. Machako's, March 10, 1897.

Fairly common. I believe that it breeds at Machako's.

36. *TURACUS HARTLAUBI* F. & R. ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 312.

No. 51. Machako's, July 10, 1896.

Two flocks of this species live on a mimosa-covered hill near Machako's. Common in the Kikuyu forest.

37. *GALLIREX CHLOROCHLAMYS* Shelley; Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 313.

No. 51a, ♂. Machako's, July 9, 1896.

The remarks under *T. hartlaubi* are also applicable to this species.

38. *SCHIZORHIS LEUCOGASTER* (Rüpp.); Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 314.

No. 115, ♂. Machako's, March 27, 1897.

Very common between Mombasa and Kibweze. Rare in the Machako's and Kikuyu districts.

39. *CORACIAS CAUDATUS* Linn.; Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 316. No. 93, ♂. Machako's, May 4, 1896.

Very common in Machako's district during March, April, May, and June. A few are to be seen all the year round.

40. *CORACIAS GARRULUS* (Linn.); Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xvii. p. 15 (1892).

No. 8. Machako's, April 8, 1896.

Very common.

41. *UPUPA AFRICANA* Bechst.; Salvin, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xvi. p. 14 (1892).

No. 68, ♂. Machako's, Jan. 13, 1896.

An occasional visitor to Machako's district.

42. *IRRISOR VIRIDIS* Licht.; Salvin, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xvi. p. 17 (1892).

No. 27, ♂ ad. Machako's, April 26, 1896.

The only specimen seen during two years.

43. *BYCANISTES CRISTATUS* (Rüpp.); Grant, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xvii. p. 417 (1892).

Nos. 120, 121; ♂ ♀. Niro Nairobi, Kikuyu.

Very common in Kikuyu forest.

44. *LOPHOCEROS MELANOLEUCUS* (Licht.); Grant, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xvii. p. 399 (1892).

No. 71, ♂. Machako's, Aug. 16, 1896.

Fairly common in Machako's district. This specimen I killed in the station.

45. *MELITTOPHAGUS CYANOSTICTUS* Cab. ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 319.

No. 79. Machako's, Sept. 1896.

Common everywhere from Mombasa to Kikuyu, except in the open and very bare plains.

46. *COLIUS LEUCOTIS* Rüpp. ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvii. p. 341, pl. xii. fig. 1 (1892).

No. 58, ♂. N'Goloni, 7 miles from Machako's, Aug. 6, 1896.

Common in flocks all over the country from Mombasa to Kikuyu, except in the middle of the bare plains.

47. *CERCHNEIS NAUMANNI* (Fleisch); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 435 (1874).

No. 107, ♂. Machako's, March 1, 1897.

Several hundreds in a flock.

48. *CERCHNEIS FIELDI* Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. p. 58 (1897).

Nos. 87, 88, ♂ ♀. Machako's, Nov. 7 & 8, 1896.

This pair nested in a tree near the fort. There was only one young bird, which I kept alive for some time.

[This is a small northern race of *C. rupicoloides*, discovered by Prof. D. G. Elliot during his journey into the interior of Somaliland, and, as a matter of fact, Dr. Hinde appears to have actually procured the first specimens of this new species. They arrived in London only a few days after Professor Elliot brought his Somali collection to the British Museum — R. B. S.]

49. *ANAS UNDULATA* Dubois ; Salvad. Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxvii. p. 212 (1895).

No. 98, ♂. Machako's, Nov. 21, 1896.

50. *PÆCILONETTA ERYTHORHYNCHA* (Gm.) ; Salvad. t. c. p. 285.

No. 99, ♂. Machako's, Nov. 21, 1896.

[By some mistake I named Mr. Jackson's specimen of this Duck from Machako's *Querquedula xanthorhyncha* (Ibis,

1892, p. 541). Count Salvadori (*tom. cit.* p. 213) has referred to this as a synonym of *Anas undulata*.—R. B. S.]

51. NYROCA BRUNNEA Eyton; *Salvad. Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxvii. p. 351 (1895).

No. 97, ♂ ♀. Machako's, Nov. 21, 1896.

The Ducks arrive at Machako's every year in October and April, and remain as long as the rains last, a period of one or two months.

52. HAGEDASHIA HAGEDASH Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxvi. p. 19 (1898).

No. 52, ♂. Machako's, July 15, 1896.

No. 52, ♂. „ Oct. 27, 1896.

Very common on the Sabaki and Athi rivers, occasionally following the course of their smallest tributaries to an immense distance from any large body of water or big swamp.

53. HERODIAS ALBA (L.); Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxvi. p. 90 (1898).

No. 49, ♀. Machako's, July 7, 1896.

54. BUBULCUS LUCIDUS (Rafin.); Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxvi. p. 213 (1898).

No. 29, ♂ ♀. Machako's, April 9, and May 5, 1896.

Flocks of these birds visited Machako's in April and May, 1896.

55. BUTORIDES ATRICAPILLUS (Afzel.); Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 541.

No. 50, ♂. Machako's, July 7, 1896.

Common on the rivers and pools.

56. SCOPUS UMBRETTA Gm.; Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 542.

No. 86, ♀. Machako's, Oct. 28, 1896.

Very common and breeds in the district.

57. TRACHELOTIS CANICOLLIS (Reichen.); Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxiii. p. 309 (1894).

Otis canicollis Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 543.

No. 48, ♂. Machako's, July 7, 1896.

58. LISSOTIS MELANOGASTER (Rüpp.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiii. p. 306 (1894).

Otis melanogaster Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 543.

No. 77, ♂ ♀. Machako's, Aug. 14, 1896, Sept. 12, 1896.

Both species of Bustard live and breed in the plains around Machako's. In the dusk of the evening they come to the cultivated land in and near the hills in large numbers to feed. Their chief food is grasshoppers.

59. ŒDICNEMUS AFFINIS Rüpp.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiv. p. 17 (1896).

Nos. 89, 90, ♂ ♀. Machako's, Nov. 5, 1896.

I fancy this is a common species, though I never shot at the birds but once, and then in mistake for another species. I winged the pair, and they were very tame about the place for some time; then both died suddenly on the same day. They used to make a curious noise by shaking the tail-feathers, sounding exactly like the white ant's alarm-note. White ants probably answer the signal, and so indicate their position to the bird.

60. OCHTHODROMUS ASIATICUS (Pall.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiv. p. 230 (1896).

Nos. 109, 110, ♂ ♀. Machako's, March 2, 1897.

In large flocks. Found in the dry plains, far from water.

61. STEPHANIBYX CORONATUS (Bodd.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiv. p. 178 (1896).

No. 116, ♂. Machako's, April 2, 1897. "Did-he-do-it."

This bird is very common on the plains and is one of the stalker's greatest enemies, as its shrill note alarms the game at the most inopportune moments.

62. RHYACOPHILUS GLAREOLA (Linn.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiv. p. 490 (1896).

Totanus glareola Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 545.

No. 84, ♂. Machako's river, Oct. 26, 1896.

A very common bird on even the smallest streams.

63. *GALLINAGO MAJOR* (Gm.); Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 545.
No. 86, ♂. Machako's, Nov. 9, 1896.

Comes here in large numbers during the rains at the end of October and April.

64. *GALLINA GONIGRIPENNIS* Bp.; Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 545.

No. 54, ♀. Kikuyu, July 23, 1896.

Common. It has the same note as the preceding species.

65. *ROSTRATULA CAPENSIS* (Linn.); Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxiv. p. 683 (1896).

No. 53, ♂. Kikuyu, July 23, 1896.—Found among five brace of Common Snipe shot the same day.

Nos. 117, 118, ♂ ♀. Machako's, April 28, 1897.

A rare visitor. Among a hundred and odd brace of Snipe shot there were only one and a half brace of the Painted Snipe.

66. *TACHYBAPTES CAPENSIS* Salvad. *Ann. Mus. Genov.* (2) i. p. 252 (1884).

No. 40, ♂. Machako's, May 4, 1896.

No. 40, ♂. „ Sept. 14, 1896.

Common. Breeds in Machako's and the Kikuyu districts.

67. *LIMNOCORAX NIGER* (Gm.); Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxiii. p. 150 (1894).

Limnocorax flavirostris (Sw.); Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 546.
No. 31, ♂. Machako's, May 10, 1896.

Very common and breeds on the banks of all the streams in British East Africa.

68. *VINAGO CALVA* (Temm. & Knip); Salvad. *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxi. p. 20 (1893).

Treron calva Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 548.
No. 92, ♂. Machako's, Oct. 3, 1896.

Common wherever there are a few trees from Mombasa Island inland. This bird never feeds on the ground, and I should think it doubtful whether it ever alights there.

69. COLUMBA ARQUATRIX Temm.; Salvad. Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxi. p. 276 (1893).

Palumbus arquatrix Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 518.

No. 94, ♂. Machako's, Sept. 11, 1896.

Very wild; common on bushy hills, but hard to get near.

70. TURTUR SENEGALENSIS (L.); Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 547.

No. 28, ♂. Machako's, April 28, 1896.

Very common.

71. PTEROCLES GUTTURALIS Smith; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 549.

Nos. 55, 56, ♂ ♀. Near Machako's, July 27, 1896.

72. FRANCOLINUS ULUENSIS Ogilvie Grant; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 551.

No. 73, ♀. Machako's, Sept. 11, 1896.

No. 74, ♀. „ Sept. 3, 1896.

No. 83, ♂. „ Oct. 3, 1896.

73. PTERNISTES INFUSCATUS Cab.; Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 552.

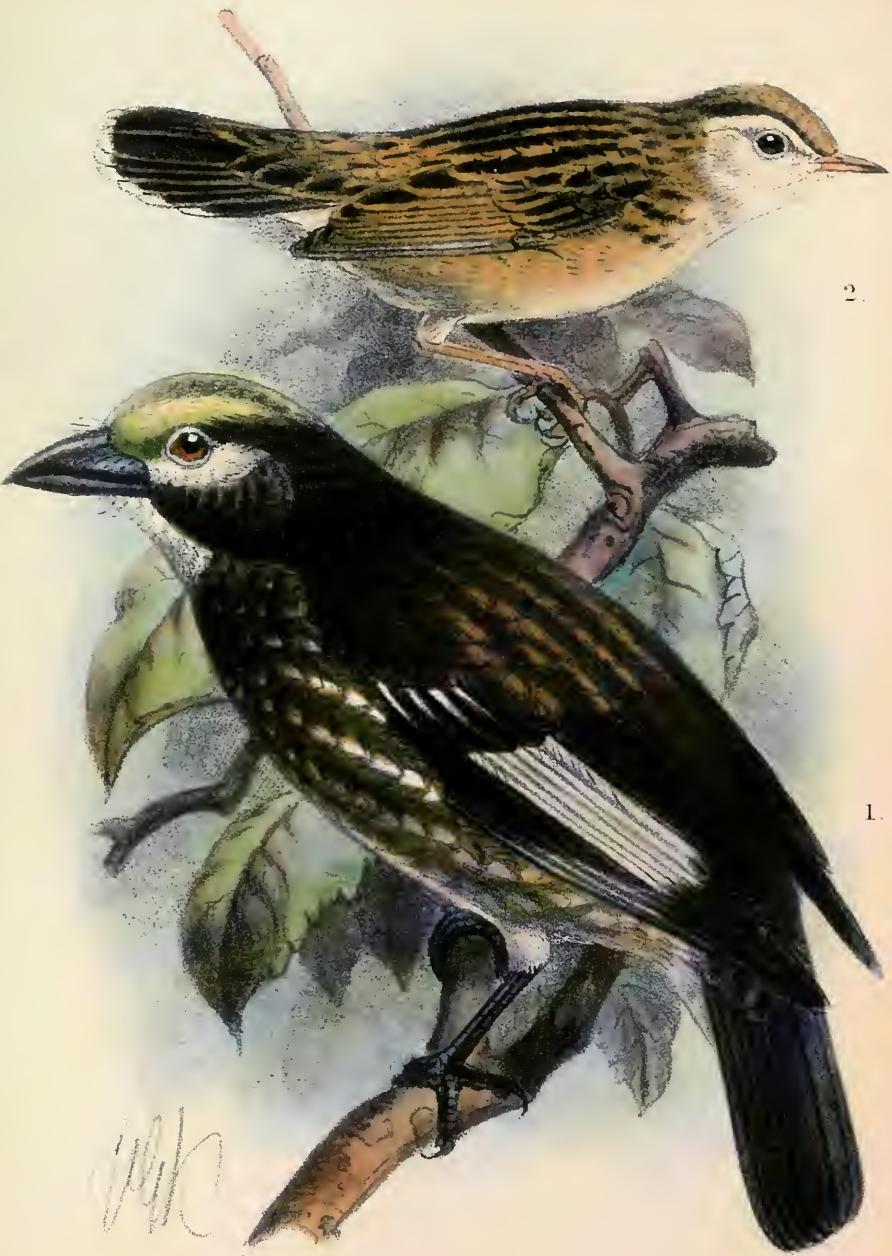
No. 91, ♂. Machako's, Oct. 1, 1896.

Common.

L.—On the Orcadian Home of the Gargfowl (*Alca impennis*).

By ALFRED NEWTON.

IN 1888 Mr. Buckley, one of the authors of the 'Vertebrate Fauna of the Orkney Islands,' made a survey of Papa Westray, being naturally desirous of ascertaining the actual breeding-place—reputed to be thereon—of the extinct species about which so much has been written, and found what struck him "as being very likely indeed for it" (*op. cit.* p. 249). This was a shelving rock on the west side; but the next year Mr. Harvie-Brown, the other author of that valuable volume, visiting the spot, saw that it was unsuitable; for the surf, though there was not much wind at the time, ran up the slope, and in a gale would evidently dash against



J.C. Keulemans del et lith

Mintern.Bros imp.

1. SMILORHIS SOWERBYI .

2. CISTICOLA HINDII .